

A LETTER

To a West-Country

Clothier and Freeholder,

Concerning the Parliament's Rejecting

The French Treaty of Commerce,

By way of **ADVICE,**

IN

The Ensuing **ELECTIONS,**

With a **LIST** of those that Voted

For the Bill.

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Noster-Row.* 1713.

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THE FREE PRESS

To a West-County

Constitution and Freeholders

Concerning the Parliament's Rejection

of the Bill for the Amendment of the Laws

IN WITNESS WHEREOF



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S I R,

I Am very much surprized at the Endeavours which you tell me some People use, to give the Country an ill Opinion of those who voted against the *French Treaty of Commerce*. I cannot but think it very strange Usage to honest Gentlemen, who have done such great Things for her Majesty and the Nation, that they should not only be represented as Persons very Ignorant of what they ought chiefly to understand; but also be sent down into their Countrys, against the new Elections, with the odious Mark of *Whigs and Whimsicals*.

The Parliament, 'tis true, out of their Affection, Zeal and Duty, to her Majesty, has given whatever she has desir'd: Millions after Millions; and not with a Design to carry on a War, but to procure a Peace; the Advantage of which was to have been the Enlargement and Increase of our Commerce; but now that the Peace is made, and the Treaty of Commerce laid before them, they have not understood, *we are told*, the advantageous Conditions that have been obtain'd, but have prevented the Nation from reaping those Benefits it so much wants. If after this Manner, and in this Light, the Memory of this Parliament is to be continued to Posterity, I believe few will envy them the Glory their Names will meet with in future Ages: But I hope a short space of Time will convince all Mankind, that the Parliament was not deluded in this Matter, and that they have not deserved the Treatment they have met with.

Besides, I must desire you to reflect, in what a tender and respectful manner the Parliament proceeded

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on this Occasion: Formerly, when a certain Treaty appear'd to them to carry with it but a bare possibility of Prejudice to no very considerable part of our Trade, they voted the Person that made it, and all those that were any ways concern'd in it, *Enemys to their Country*; but how *differently* have they chosen to act in *this Affair*? They only refus'd to *repeal a great many Laws in order to render this Treaty Effectual*; they pass'd no Censures on the Persons that negotiated and concluded it; but, on the contrary, in a very few days after, lest the slight Wounds which they had given should fester, they were content to lick them themselves. They represent the *Edifice* which had been raising *so long*, and with *so much Artifice*, as a *good Foundation*, tho not a *perfect Building*; and humbly desire, that all that which was *imperfect* might be *amended*, and all that which was *unintelligible* might be *explain'd*. This, one would have thought, might have *recover'd* them from their *fall'n State*, and *restor'd* them to *Favour*. However, as the Love of one's Country is the greatest and most noble Vertue, so its Service is its own Reward; and with this Satisfaction these *injur'd Gentlemen* may wait patiently till they have that Justice done them which no impartial Person, who is fully inform'd of the thing it self, can refuse them.

You, Sir, I am certain, cannot but agree with me in this Opinion, because 'tis impossible but that a Man of your Understanding in Trade, must be convinc'd, how Fatal the ratifying in Parliament the 8th and 9th Articles must have been to this Nation; you cannot but have been convinc'd of this, by the Representation of the Merchants to the Lord Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, in the Year 1674. by which it appears, that the Nation at that time lost upwards of a Million a Year by the Trade with France, and that that Scheme was incontestably proved to be a true one in the House of Commons, I have formerly

acquainted you. But I might also refer you to all the Petitions in the Votes, and to the Speeches of Mr. Cook, Mr. Milner, Mr. Toriano, Mr. Aislavie, Sir Tho Hammer, Sir Arthur Kay, Mr. Smith of Glasgow, and several others, which I sent you down whilst this matter was in Agitation. But supposing you had not seen those Excellent Discourses, is it not enough to satisfy the World, that they know the Sense of the Parliament in this matter? If they have been *deluded* in one thing, they may have been deluded in others, and that may go farther than they who make the Objection, perhaps, would have it; 'twould be very strange if this should be the *only* Error they have committed these three Years, especially when we consider how much pains they took to inform themselves fully. Never was any Matter manag'd with more Deliberation and Candour; the numerous Petitions which were sent up from all Parts of the Nation against this Treaty, were all read and examin'd, the Merchants and Tradesmen were heard in both Houses, and tho great Numbers appear'd against the Bill, no one appear'd for it. Now, when a Matter has been so solemnly debated before both Houses of Parliament, and, according to all appearance, would have been *condemn'd* by a considerable *Majority* in the *House of Lords*, and actually has been *condemn'd* by the *House of Commons*; is not this enough to satisfy all the reasonable part of Mankind, that they thought what was offer'd, pernicious to the Publick? What can be more convincing? And is it not wonderful, that against all this substantial Evidence, any body would be so weak, as to put into the Ballance the false and trifling Arguments of *The Mercator*; a *Paper* which is now certainly known to be written by Daniel Foe, a Fellow who has prostituted his Pen in the vilest manner to all Partys, and to all Persons; who has formerly suffer'd the most ignominious Punishment, and is at present under Prosecution, by her Majesty's Order,

Order, for Three infamous and treasonable Libels, against our Queen, against the Protestant Succession, and against the Ministry; so that this Author, notwithstanding his fair Pretences, is a Snake in the Grass.

As for those Gentlemen who gave their Votes for the Bill, I herewith send you an exact List of them; by which you will find, that near two Thirds of the 185 have Places, or an immediate Dependence upon the Court; and amongst the rest of them, a great many have no Concern in Trade, nor any Estates in Land, and are not qualify'd to serve in Parliament again: On the other side, amongst those who Voted against the Bill, there are, to their Honour be it spoken, some *Worthy Patriots, who Voted for their Country, against their Places*; Eight and twenty Knights of Shires, and those some of the most considerable in *Great Britain*; almost all the Representatives of the great Trading Citys, such as *London, Bristol, Exeter, &c.* and the Remainder of the 194. are chiefly Gentlemen of great Estates in Land, or very rich Merchants. Besides it appears that the Majority of those that were absent, was on the side of the Whigs.

But I will not insist any longer upon the Reception the 8th and 9th Articles have met with in *England*; I will inform you what Opinion they have of them in *France*, and this is another way to discover to which Kingdom they are Beneficial. The *Mercator* boldly affirms, that the People in *France* look upon them as prejudicial to them, and that they are very glad they were rejected by the Parliament. But the *Paris Gazette*, which gives an exact Account how the Bill was thrown out, does not take notice of that Transaction as a Subject of Joy to *France*, but insinuates, that the Bill was to be brought in again next Session.

But I have a better Evidence in my Hands than any *Gazette* whatever, which will put this Matter out of Dispute; and that is an Authentick Paper which

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was deliver'd at the Door of the *House of Commons*, the Day of that *Memorable Debate*; an Abstract of which follows.

“ The Ship *Success* of *Hastings*, *Ben. Meadow* Master: The *John* and *Elizabeth* of *London*, *William Akid* Master: The _____, *John Fellows* Master: The *Mary* and *Elizabeth*, *P. Jastram* Master. These four Ships took in their Loading in *London*, bound for *Rhoan* in *France*: Their Cargo consisted of Lead, Red Lead, White Lead, Logwood, Fustick, and other Wood for *Dyer's* Use; and Pepper, Shellack, Glew, Horns, and Kid's Hair. After their Arrival at *Rhoan*, having made a true Report of their Ships and Cargo, they were seiz'd the 4th of *April* last, the Hatches seal'd up by the *Admiralty* and *Customhouse*, and the Masters were summon'd to appear before the Judge of the *Admiralty*, to see their Ships condemn'd for the King's Use, and to pay 3000 *Livres* Fine, each of them, pursuant to a Law, as they say, bearing Date the 6th of *Sept.* 1701, which prohibits almost all *English* Goods, except Corn, Eatables, &c. But a *French* Ship called *La Marie Therese*, *Francis Mailard* Master, came also from *London* at the same time with us, loaden with the very same sorts of Goods, and was deliver'd; as also several *Hamburgers* did deliver there the very same Species of Goods, without any Difficulty. Three of us Masters went up to *Paris*, and apply'd to Mr. *Prior*, who spoke about it to the Ministers of State there, but in vain.

“ All we could learn there from the Merchants in *Rhoan*, why we should be used so severely, and other Nations permitted to bring in those same Goods, was, That they believ'd if the *Parliament* of *England* had settled the Trade with *France*, we should be more favourably us'd, and till then, no.

“ This

“ thing must be brought from *England*, except Corn,
“ Oxen, and such like.

This is another sort of Evidence, than the *Merchant's bare Word*; here is a Master of a Ship in Person come directly from *France*, to lay his own, and his Fellow sufferers Case before the Parliament, and ready to certify upon Oath, if requir'd, That the *French* us'd the *English* worse than any other Nation, because the Parliament had not pass'd a Bill for confirming the *Treaty of Commerce*; and that the *English* might expect to be better us'd, if they would pass such a Bill, but not till then. Here you see, that 'twas in vain that *Her Majesty's Minister* apply'd for Redress to the *French Court*: The Master said that Mr. *Prior* could not so much as procure the Liberty for the Ships to return home again. What has been done since, in order to get them discharg'd; whether the Merchants have prov'd the Goods to belong to *French Men*, or whether they are yet discharg'd, or not, I cannot tell. How vastly different is this Information from the *Mercator's Trash*? Does it not sufficiently prove, That the *French* know very well that this *Treaty* is advantageous to them, since they use their best Friends so ill, in order to get the 8th and 9th Articles confirm'd by our Parliament?

But suppose now, for Argument-sake, we should allow what ought not to be allow'd, and what can never be prov'd, viz. That *England* may get by such a Trade with *France*; that will not prove that it ought to be open'd upon these Terms, unless it be first made appear, that we shall not suffer more by the Loss of our Trade in other Places. Some say we got 2 or 300000 *l.* a Year, during the last Peace, by the Trade with *France*; but 'tis very well known, we have got above a Million a Year by that with *Portugal* during the War, and 'tis as certain that these two Trades, according to the present *Treaty of Commerce* with *France*, are inconsistent: They are set opposite

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to one another, as appears by a Treaty made some Years since with *Portugal*, entirely upon account of our Woollen Manufactures, for which I must own, I cannot help praising the Persons that made it, however I may differ from them in other Matters; for 'tis the *Portugal* Trade which has supported us in the War, and without it, we should soon find the Peace more burthensome than the War. But I need not talk to a West-Country-Man, who for several Years, has seen so much *Portugal* Gold in the Fairs, Markets, Shops, and amongst the Gentlemen's Stewards, how advantageous the *Portugal* Trade is to *England*: You will be glad to hear it is every Day encreasing, which the *Mercator* himself owns, and tells us it is owing to the *Portuguese* having lately discover'd prodigious *Gold Mines*. And is it not worth our While to Trade with such a Nation? Those Gold Mines have not been discover'd for them, but for us, if we are not so mad, as at all Adventures, to break so beneficial a Treaty. By this Treaty, the King of *Portugal* consents that we shall have his Gold for our Woollen Manufactures; but by the present Treaty of Commerce with *France*, the *French* are to have our Money for their Wines, Silks, Brandys, &c. The Trade with *Portugal* will Maintain, nay, Enrich our Poor; that with *France*, as stated in the Eighth and Ninth Articles, will Beggar and Undoe our Gentry. But here I will let you have a Translation of the *Portugal* Treaty, because, perhaps, you may never have seen it; and because, for a good while together, it was deny'd there was any such Treaty.

Translation of the Treaty, sign'd at *Lisbon*
the 27th of December, 1703.

Article 1st.

HIS Sacred Royal Majesty of *Portugal* promises for himself and his Successors, That Liberty shall be given to bring into *Portugal* for-ever hereafter

C

Woollen

Woollen Cloths, and all sorts of Woollen Manufactures of *Great-Britain*, in the same manner as used to be done before they were prohibited by the Laws, upon this Condition nevertheless,

Article 2d.

To wit, That Her Sacred Royal Majesty of *Great-Britain* and Her Successors, shall be obliged in all times to come, to admit the Wines of the Growth of *Portugal* into *Great-Britain*, in such manner, as that at no time hereafter (whether there be Peace or War between *Great-Britain* and *France*) any thing more be demanded for those Wines by the name of Custom or Duty, or by any other Title, directly or indirectly, than two Thirds of the Custom or Duty which is demanded for the same Quantity, or Measure of *French* Wine, whether those Wines are brought into *Great-Britain* in Hogsheads or Casks, or in any other Vessels; but if this Abatement of Customs which is to be made, as is aforesaid, shall be prejudic'd in any manner, or abolish'd, It shall be Just and Lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of *Portugal* to prohibit again the Woollen Cloths, and the rest of the Woollen Manufactures of *Great-Britain*.

Thus it appears plainly by this Treaty, That if the Duty upon *French* Wines had, pursuant to our Treaty of Commerce with *France*, been made equal with that upon the *Portugal* Wines, this great Branch of our Woollen Trade had been cut off; for not the Woollen Cloths only, as the Mercator falsely asserts, would have been prohibited, but also all the other Woollen Manufactures of *Great-Britain*, which is one of the Reasons why our good Friends the *French* so much desir'd to see their new Treaty take place. They are not ignorant of the vast Advantages we make by the Trade with *Portugal*, in the Disposal of our Woollen Manufactures: They have Woollen Manufactures for them, and

and want to be making a Treaty with them, as soon as we have broken ours; for at present all sorts of French Woollen Goods are prohibited in Portugal. Monsieur Menager offer'd the Portugal Ministers at Utrecht, above 7 Weeks since, a Plan of a Treaty of Commerce which is very advantageous to Portugal. The French will give them Leave to bring their Tobaccos into France, by reducing the Dutys immediately (NOT HERE-AFTER) and their Sugars of all sorts, without such Restrictions as the English are oblig'd to, provided they will come into the Treaty last mention'd: They use all manner of Arguments induce to the Portuguese to it. One of the French Ministers, at the very same time that their Friends here were pressing the Parliament to break in upon the Portugal Treaty, told the Portugal Plenipotentiarys, that the ill Treatment of the English, in having no Regard to that Treaty, and also upon other Occasions, might justly provoke Portugal to slight such ungrateful People, and joyn with France in the Treaty propos'd. In short, his plain, that the Trade with Portugal is the only Trade that can be of the greatest Importance to England, especially now that Spain is in the Hands of the House of Bourbon. For this Reason, I was extremely glad, when I heard that the King of Portugal was one of the first that came into Her Majesty's Measures, in relation to the Peace. This gave me good Ground to hope, that some Advantages might be gain'd for him, as a Reward for that young Prince's resigning himself entirely to Her Majesty's Care: Besides, I consider'd of how much Consequence every thing that related to him, must be to us in point of Trade, which when the Peace took place, was all we had to concern ourselves about.

I am sorry, that that King's reasonable Demands have not been yet comply'd with by Spain; but when the Spanish Ambassador arrived at Utrecht, the Portu-

gal Ministers told him, that their Master would be now contented that all the Places which had been taken on either side, during the War, might be restor'd, and that they were ready to give up the Towns which they had taken upon the Frontiers of *Spain*, provided they might have their Settlement upon the *River Plata* in the *West Indies*, of which the *Spaniards* had dispossest'd them in this War; that that Settlement was of the utmost Importance to *Portugal*, because it gave occasion to a Communication between the *Brazils* and the Country of *Peru*; and that this was far short of what a certain P——e promis'd to procure for them, when the Plan of Peace was first propos'd: In answer to which, Monsieur *Monteleone* told them, That he wonder'd they should be so much impos'd upon; for he could assure them, that that P——e engag'd to M. *Menager*, not to intermeddle in the Affairs of *Portugal*; and that 'twas upon that Consideration, that the King of *Spain* had yielded up two or three Places. Monsieur *Monteleone* must needs be mistaken in this Matter; but yet 'tis certain that the *Spaniards* act as if they depended upon it, for at the Place of Treaty, they make every Day more and more unreasonable Demands; and on the Frontiers of *Portugal*, they have got together a considerable Army, and are ready to set down before *Campo Major*, as the *Portuguese* apprehend; but we are very well assured that the King of *Spain* has made the most solemn Promises not to attempt any thing against *Portugal*, and therefore Endeavours are used to perswade them to be easy, and no doubt they will be taken care of; for should that Country and its Dominions fall into the Hands of the House of *Bourbon*, that Family will then be in Possession of all the Gold in the World, a Metal which Her Majesty, who holds the Ballance, would soon perceive the Weight of.

For my part, you know what an Admirer I have
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all along been of the new Administration, how much I have applauded their Zeal for our Church, add the Service they have done their Country, in putting a stop to that Flame of War which must at last have consum'd us. I heartily desire that the Peace may be lasting, but I can never pretend to say, that all the Advantages have been agreed to for our Trade, that might have been wish'd, except there are others *not yet publick*. However, that is the Business of a House of Commons, and I hope we shall get such a one as understands Trade, otherwise I fear we shall be very great Sufferers. In the mean time, it were to be wish'd, that her Majesty, who, I am certain, has very much Goodness and Compassion for her People, had heard half of what was said against the *French Treaty of Commerce* in the House where she spoke last.

As for those who are not content to give the Ministers their due Praises for having overcome all the Obstacles to this Peace, which had been so industriously and artificially contriv'd to prevent it; as also for recovering the Nations Credit, and almost entirely suppressing Faction; but who must, besides all this, be declaring, *what great Advantages we have gain'd in Trade*; I desire them to take this short and general View, *how our Trade stands at present*.

The Fishery of *Newfoundland*, and all the Islands thereabouts, tho secur'd by an Act of Parliament to the Natives of *Great Britain*, * exclusive of all others, is given, in great * *See 10 & 11. Guil. 3: cap. 25.* measure, by the Treaty of Peace to *France and Spain*, and all the said Islands are entirely given to *France*; so that those two Countrys being our chief Markets for Fish, and they being now to be supply'd by their own Ships and their own People with that Commodity, our Fishery is almost become useless to us; for if the *French and Spaniards* have no occasion for our Fish,

Fish, what signifies it upon how good Terms we can carry them thither, supposing we had, in that respect, all we can ask? If they had been under a Necessity, as formerly, to have taken our Fish, because they could have none any were else, they must have done all they could to have encourag'd us to have brought it to them.

As for our Trade with *Spain*, we are yet in the Dark about it; for tho it was understood that her Majesty would have laid the *Spanish Treaty* before the Parliament, and altho it was brought over ten Days before the Prorogation, yet it was not made publick.

Our Trade to the *South-Sea* is a meer Embrio, and the Affair of the *Affiento*, as appears by the additional Article of the Contract, has hitherto been carry'd on with great Loss to the Persons concern'd in it.

The Trade with *France* is such, as even this Parliament cannot come into; tho 'tis certain they are as much devoted to the Service of those that made it, as ever any Parliament was.

Our Trade to *Turkey* and the *Streights*, must every day decrease, by reason that the *French* now send great Quantities of Goods thither.

As for our *Flanders* Trade, of which so much has been talk'd, we know not what to think on't, while 'tis carry'd on by an Army of 14 or 15000 Men, an Expence which 2 s. in the Pound will not afford, and consequently these Trades, under such Circumstances, cannot be of any Advantage to the Nation.

But that which must not be omitted, is the Wound which almost all our Trade in general must have receiv'd by the 8th and 9th Articles being ratify'd; for tho it did not succeed, yet the apprehension of it has put all Business to a stand; neither is it likely to revive now the Wound is kept open, by the Resolution that is taken to attempt it again. This is the true and only reason of that Deadness of Trade which

is so sensibly felt by all sort of People at present, and it must continue till the apprehension of what is known to be so fatal to it, be remov'd; for what part of the World can a Merchant set himself to Trade to, whilst things are in this Fluctuation and Uncertainty? Must not our Cloths and Stuffs be a Drug, when no prudent Person will venture to provide a great Quantity for the *Portugal* Exportation, for fear that King should be compell'd to break a Treaty which we have dealt with in such a manner?

But supposing this should not happen, how can our Merchants engage for the *Portugal* Wines, which must be taken, in part, for the Returns of our Woollen Goods, when they can have no Assurance that the *French* Duty shall not be lower'd before they can have dispos'd of those Wines here? And this is the State of our Trade with Italy, and several other Foreign Markets, and consequently Trade must needs be in a miserable Condition, especially amongst those that deal in the Woollen Manufactures.

For the same Reasons, our Home Business cannot but be in a very languishing State; for how can the Shopkeepers employ the Silk-Weavers of *London*, *Norwich*, *Canterbury*, &c. or the Linnen-Weavers of *Lancashire*, *Yorkshire*, *Somersetshire*, &c. in order to have a good Stock by them against the next Winter, when no body knows but that a Deluge of *French* Silks and Linnens may be pour'd in upon them, and all their Stocks be left upon their hands, to their utter Ruin? Rather than run such great Hazards, Merchants and Tradesmen chuse to put their Money into Stocks and the publick Funds, which must needs be a great Hindrance to Trade, and an irreparable Loss to the poor Manufacturers, who have nothing to maintain their Familys, but their daily Labour.

For my own part, I must frankly own I am full of Apprehensions of the ill Consequence of what has already pass'd in relation to the 8th and 9th Articles; and

and when I consider, that perhaps the same in all Points may be ratify'd in Parliament (for I am sensible very great Efforts will be made towards it) I don't know what can afford us a more dismal Prospect to our Trade: The pernicious Consequences will be immediately felt by the Nation, the *French* will in a little time draw all our ready Money from us, and many Thousands of our Poor will be reduc'd to a starving Condition: The People will never be at quiet till that Law be again repeal'd; and what a fatal Strife will this be to *England*? This will be like a War in our very Vitals, and infinitely more destructive than any War we have yet been engag'd in.

But, as yet, it is in our own Powers to prevent it, and this it most nearly concerns us all to do, by making choice of *such Members as are capable of so important a Business as our Trade, and honest enough not to be byass'd by any Means whatsoever.*

If ever there was a Necessity for us to exert our utmost Abilities, it is on this Occasion. We are now, at length, got out of a long and grievous War; we have happily secur'd our *Church* beyond all manner of Danger; and we have nothing now to do, but to take care of our *Trade*, which if we do not, we shall in a little while, be the most Beggarly, and the most Miserable Nation upon Earth, and the Jest of all Mankind.

I do, and always shall, own my self to be a most passionate Admirer of our Gracious Queen, the best of Princes, and all Her Glorious Actions; and so I am of those Able Ministers, She, in Her great Wisdom, has thought fit to employ; and 'tis for this Reason, that I would do my utmost to prevent the Undertaking of That, which, should it succeed, I very much apprehend, cannot but reflect on the Queen's Honour, and prove dangerous to Her Ministers, and ruinous to Her People.

They

They are not much acquainted with the World who imagine, that those are most a Man's Friends, who are for pushing him on in an advent'rous Undertaking, 'tis often done with a quite different View than what the common People imagine. Thus in the Affair of Dr. Sacheverel, several very good Churchmen, who make now no inconsiderable Figure, appear'd very Zealous for that Prosecution, wisely foreseeing what would be the Event of it; and there are those who are no Friends to the present Measures, who, for the like Reasons, are sorry that this Treaty of Commerce was not ratify'd, as it was desir'd.

To be plain then, Sir, I hope you and all your Friends will spare no Pains to prevent those Persons from being Chosen, who have already given their Votes for the 8th and 9th Articles, and that you will pitch upon such to succeed them, as you can depend upon, it never will.

In the next place, when you have chosen your Representatives, I hope you will give them ample Instructions, how to secure your Trade with *Portugal*, to explain and amend your Treaty of Commerce with *France*, and to examine into all the other Branches of your Trade. You may command them to pursue your Orders; they are your Servants; and formerly you, *and none but you*, paid them their Wages. Antiently, the Burroughs always gave Instructions to their Members, especially in Matters of this Nature, of which you are the proper, nay the only Judges. Do not be banter'd out of your Senses; be assured, that neither the Church, nor the Prerogative, have any thing to do in this matter. Treatys that relate to Trade only, and to confirm which several Laws must be repeal'd, may be alter'd, without derogating from her Majesty's Honour. You know, that even the Barrier and Succession Treaty, upon a Representation from the House of Commons, was alter'd, tho that was a Treaty of a mixt Nature, and of the highest Consequence imaginable.

ble. Your Trade is yours, your Wives and your Childrens Bread, you are to earn it, and you know best how it is to be done. If your chuse Members only to give away your Money, and to ratify whatever is laid before them, even in Matters of Trade, this will be more like a Parliament of *Paris*, than the Representative of the Free People of *Britain*. Be assured, that if this Treaty of Commerce, as now offer'd in the 8th and 9th Articles, is once confirm'd by a House of Commons, you will never get off from it, neither you, nor your Children's Children; for whatever may be the Event of any future War, as none can be more successful than this has been, and as no body has had so great a Hand in the making of this Peace as our selves, this Treaty of Commerce will always be pinn'd down upon *Britain*.

If a Clergyman, who, without Reflection, may be suppos'd not to be deep learn'd in Commerce; if a Courtier, who, you know, is already prepossess'd, should endeavour to perswade you to act against your true Interest, Remember that you have gratify'd the Clergy, by exerting your selves so seasonably and vigorously for our Church; that you have obliged the C——t, by approving of the Peace; and now 'tis highly reasonable that you, in your turn, should be satisfy'd in point of Trade. You have wisely rely'd on the Judgment of the Clergy in the first, upon that of the Ministry in the second; for God's sake, trust to no Body's Judgment but your own in the last.

I must also tell you, that as you have a Right to instruct your particular Members, so you have a Right to apply to the whole Body, when assembled; which if you do not, you can never answer it to your selves, or your Posterity. In order to this, you must be sure to have humble and modest Petitions ready at every Place against the meeting of the Parliament; for the flinging out the Bill was in a great Measure owing to those seasonable Applications.

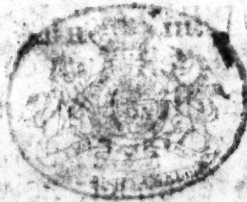
I need not tell you, that it is your undoubted Right to address your selves directly to Her Majesty; there are, I believe, few, or none of you, but have of late been receiv'd very graciously by Her; and so most certainly you will be again, if you observe the Respect due to so Great, and so Good a Queen; whose Ears are always open to Her People's Prayers, as well as to their Congratulations.

I shall conclude with a short Observation upon the second Paragraph of Her Majesty's Speech, where She is pleas'd to promise that She will apply the Supplys the Parliament has given, *as far as they will reach, to satisfy the Services they have voted.* This has very much startled abundance of People, because they think it implies, that there will be great Exceedings to be made good next Year; and then, say they, *To what Purpose has Two Shillings in the Pound upon Land been taken off, if all the Money that has been given won't answer the Services for which the Publick Credit stands engag'd? What great Help is it to the Nation, if what is abated this Year, must be paid the next?* Besides, it was hoped, that two Shillings upon Land, the whole *English*, with the additional *Scotch Malt*, and the *Exchequer-Bills*, and the *Civil-List Mortgage*, and the *Civil-List* it self (which in times of Peace, amounts to near a Million) might have been sufficient to have answer'd all the ordinary and extraordinary Expences of the Government, now we are eas'd of the Burthen of the War, by a safe and honourable Peace; This, I must own, is altogether a considerable Sum.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The Land Tax, —————	900000	0	0
The Malt, without the <i>Scotch</i> , ———	500000	0	0
New Exchequer-Bills, —————	1200000	0	0
Civil List Mortgage, —————	500000	0	0
Civil-List it self, —————	900000	0	0
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I am sorry Four Millions should not supply all the Occasions of this Year ; but you see there will be a Necessity for a pretty deal of Money to be rais'd, *even in time of Peace*, which, I hope, will be a sufficient Caution to you to take care to *chuse such Representatives as will be frugal of the Publick Treasure*, as well as mindfull of your Trade. Pray shew this Letter to all our Friends, and remember me kindly to them,

I am, &c.



A LIST of those that voted for the French Commerce-Bill.

Berks.
 County { S I R John Stonehouse,
 Windsor Robert Packer
 Reading Charles Aldworth
 Wallingford John Dalby
 Tho. Renda

Bucks.
 Great Marlow George Bruere
 Buckingham Tho. Chapman
 Chipping Wicomb Charles Godfrey
 Aylesbury Simon Harcourt
 Agmondelham { Colonel Drake
 Francis Duncombe

Cambridgeshire.
 Cambridge Town Sir John Hind Cotton
Cornwall.

County { Sir R. Vivian
 Launceston John Trevannion
 Lestwithiel George Clark
 Bodmin General Hill
 Helston Russel Robarts
 Robert Child
 Saltash { Sir William Carew
 Jonathan Elford
 Camelford Sir Bou. Wray
 St. Maws John Anstis
 Grampound Thomas Coke

Penryn
Tregony

Bossiney

Fowey

St. Michael

Derby

Exeter

Totness

Barnstaple

Honiton

Tavistock

Ashburton

Clifton Dartmouth

Tiverton

County

Dorchester

Melcomb. Regis

Shaftsbury

Corf. Castle

County

Durham City

County

Colchester

Alexander Pandarves

Edward Southwell

{ **Henry Campion**

{ **John Manly**

{ **Barnard Granville**

{ **Henry Vincent, Junior**

Abraham Blackmore

Darbyshire.

{ **Nathaniel Curzon**

{ **Edward Mundy**

Devon.

John Snell

Francis Gwyn

Sir Nicholas Hooper

James Shepheard

James Bulteel

Andrew Quick

Frederick Hern

Sir Edward Northey

Dorsetshire.

Richard Bingham

Sir Nathanael Napier

William Hervy

{ **Sir Thomas Hardy**

Edward Nicholas

Richard Fowndes

Durham.

Sir Robert Eden

Thomas Coniers

Essex.

Sir Richard Child

William Gore

Maiden

Malden	{ John Cummysn
Harwich	{ Thomas Bramston
	Kendrick Edisbury
	<i>Herefordshire.</i>
County	Sir Thomas Morgan
Hereford	{ James Bridges
	{ Thomas Foley
Leominster	Edward Harley
	<i>Hertfordshire.</i>
St. Albans	John Gape
Hertford	{ Charles Cæsar
	{ Richard Gulston
	<i>Huntingdon.</i>
County	Sir John Cotton
	<i>Kent.</i>
County	Percival Hart
Canterbury	{ John Hardress
	{ Henry Lee
Rocheſter	{ Sir John Leake
	{ William Cage
Queenborough	James Herbert
	<i>Lancashire.</i>
Preston	Henry Fleetwood
Newton	Thomas Leigh
Wigan	{ Sir Roger Braidshaw
	{ George Kenyon
	<i>Leicestershire.</i>
Leiceſter	Sir George Beaumont
	<i>Lincolnshire.</i>
Lincoln	Thomas Liſter
Great Grimby	Arthur Moor

Middlesex.

Westminster

Thomas Medlycott

London

Sir Thomas Crofs

Sir William Withers

Monmouthshire.

Monmouth

Clayton Milburn

Norfolk.

County

Sir John Woodhouse

Norwich

Richard Berney

Great Yarmouth

Richard Ferrier.

Castle-rising

Hor. Walpole

Northamptonshire.

Brackley

John Bourk

Northumberland.

County

Thomas Forster

Newcastle

upon

Sir William Blacket

Tyne

William Wrightson

Nottingham.

Newark upon Trent

Richard Newdigate

Oxfordshire.

University

Sir William Whitlock

Oxford

Sir John Walter

Banbury

Thomas Rowney

Charles North

Rutlandshire.

County

Richard Halford

Salop.

Shrewsbury

Edward Cresser

Bridgnorth

Richard Creswel

Ludlow

Acton Baldwyn

Bishop's-castle

Sir Robert Raymond

Somersetshire.

County	Sir William Wyndham
Wells	Edward Coulston
Taunton	Henry Portman
Bridgewater	Nathaniel Palmer
Minehead	{ Sir John Trevilian
	{ Sir Jacob Bancks
Ilchester	{ Sir James Bateman
	{ Edward Phelps

Southampton.

Southampton	{ Christopher Harris
	{ Richard Flemming
Portsmouth	{ Sir William Gifford
	{ Sir James Wishart
Newport	{ William Seymour
	{ Colonel Stephens
Newton	{ Henry Worsey
	{ James Worsey
Christ-church	{ Will am Etrick
	{ Sir Peter Mew
Whitchurch	{ Frederick Tilney
	{ Thomas Vernon

Staffordshire.

County	{ Charles Bagot
	{ William Ward
Newcastle un. Line	William Burllem
Tamworth	{ Joseph Girdler
	{ Samuel Bracebridge

Suffolk.

County	Sir Robert Dayers
Orford	{ Sir Edward Turner
	{ Clement Currance
Aldborough	Sir Henry Johnson

Sudbury

{ Robert Ecklyn

{ John Mead

Surry.

Ryegate

{ John Ward

Haslemere

{ Theophilus Oglethorp

Suffex.

County

{ Charles Eversfield

Horsham

{ John Middleton

Bramber

{ William Shippen

Steyning

{ Henry Goring

{ ——— Leeves

Greenstead

{ John Coniers

{ Leonard Gale

Warwickshire.

County

{ Sir William Boughton

Coventry

{ Sir Christoper Hales

Warwick

{ Dodington Greville

Westmorland.

County

{ James Graham

Apulby

{ Thomas Lutwytych

Wilts.

County

{ Sir Richard How

Hindon

{ Edmund Lambert

{ Warner Lee

Cricklade

{ Samuel Robinson

Great Bedwin

{ Thomas Millington

Ludgershal

{ John Webb

{ Thomas Pearce

Old Sarum

{ William Hervey

Marlborough

{ Robert Bruce

County

Worcestershire.

County

{ Sir John Packington

{ Samuel Pitts

Worcester

Samuel Swift

Droitwich

Edward Foley

{ Edward Jefferys

Evesham

Sir Edward Godera

Bewdley

Salway Winnington

Yorkshire.

York

Robert Benson

Knareborough

Robert Byerley

Scarborough

John Hungerford

Rippon

John Sharp

Boroughbrigg

Craven Peyton

Aldborough

Robert Munckton

Cinque Ports.

Hastings

Sir Joseph Martyn

Sandwich

John Mitchell

Seaford

William Lownds

W A L E S.

Anglesey

Lord Buckley

Beaumaris

Henry Bertie

Flint

Sir John Conway

Radnor County

Thomas Harley

Radnor

Lord Harley

S C O T L A N D.

Aberdeen

Sir Alexander Cumin

Aireburgh

Charles Olyphant

Bamffshire

Alexander Abercrombie

Dumfrieshire

James Murray

Edin.

((28))

Edinburghshire	George Lockhart
Elgin	Alexander Reid
Fifehire	Sir Alex. Areskin Lord Lyon
Pittenweem	General Hamilton
Angushire	John Carnegie
	William Levingston
Lanerkshire	Sir James Hamilton
Lidlithgowshire	John Houston
Perthshire	Lord James Murray
Rosshire	Charles Ross
Selkirkshire	John Pringle
Starlingshire	Sir Hugh Paterfon

In all 189

FINIS.

